

Message Text

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ACTION H-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-10 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 SSO-00

NSCE-00 DODE-00 DPW-01 SCS-03 PA-01 PRS-01 PM-04

INR-07 INRE-00 /069 W

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O R 210447Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5851

INFO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE IMMEDIATE

JCRC SAMAE SAN IMMEDIATE

JCS WASHDC IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USMISSION GENEVA

CINCPAC HONOLULU

COMUSMACTHAI BANGKOK

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 26512

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OREF, PFOR, US, VN

SUBJECT: CODEL MONTGOMERY ITINERARY

1. CODEL MONTGOMERY DEPARTED BANGKOK 0730 HOURS LOCAL ON DECEMBER 21 FOR HANOI ON UNHCR CLARTER AIR LAOS CARAVELLA ACCOMPANIED BY UNHCR REPS HAN WKHANOI) AND CASSELA (SAIGON). FLIGHT WILL STOP AT VIENTIANE, APPROXIMATE GROUND TIME ONE HOUR FOR CREW CHANGE BEFORE GOING ON TO HANOI.

2. LATE PM DECEMBER 20 CODEL CONFERRED WITH UNHCR REPS HAN AND BERTA (BANGKOK) IN BANGKOK AND SEQUENCE OF EVENTS IN HANOI IS STILL UNCLEAR UPON DEPARTING FROM BANGKOK. CODEL WAS LEANING TOWARD STAYING TWO NIGHTS IN HANOI (21 AND 22) WITH EARLY DEPARTURE WITH REMAINS ON DECEMBER 23 (HAN DOES NOT THINK THAT ARRANGING CHARTERED AIRCRAFT
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FOR DECEMBER 23 POSES A PROBLEM), A THREE TO SIX HOUR

STOP IN VIENTIANE FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH LAOS OFFICIALS, THEN ON TO BANGKOK FOR A LATER AFTERNOON TURNOVER OF THE REMAINS TO JCRC REPS WITH PRESS COVERAGE ON THE MILITARY SIDE OF DON MUANG. CODEL WOULD THEN CONTINUE TO ESCORT REMAINS TO CAMP SAMAE SAN AND SPEND SEVERAL HOURS WITH JCRC.

3. IF THIS SCENARIO HOLDS, THE VC-135 WILL BE PRE-POSITIONED AT UTAPAO AND CODEL DEPART FOR WASHINGTON IN THE LATE PM OF DECEMBER 23 FROM THAT LOCATION WITH AN ETA AT ANDREWS AFB OF MID-MORNING DECEMBER 24 (LOCAL).

4. THE MAJOR OBSTACLE AT THE MOMENT FOR THE ABOVE SCENARIO, ACCORDING TO UNHCR REP HAN, IS THAT DRV EXPECTS AND MAY INSIST THAT REMAINS DEPART HANOI TODAY, DECEMBER 21. THUS CODEL HAS A DILEMMA OF NOT BEING ABLE TO ESCORT THE REMAINS IF THEY ELECT TO STAY OVERNIGHT IN HANOI. CODEL HOPES TO RESOLVE THIS ISSUE IN THEIR FAVOR WITH DRV AND HOLD TO THE SCENARIO IN PARA 2.

5. AS INDICATED IN PARA 4 REMAINS COULD ARRIVE IN BANGKOK TODAY DECEMBER 21 AS EARLY AS 1300 HOURS LOCAL. ALL ELEMENTS OF THE MISSION THAT ARE DIRECTLY CONCERNED WITH THIS OPERATION INCLUDING MACTHAI AND JCRC ARE ON FULL ALERT FOR THIS CONTINGENCY.

6. FOR VIENTIANE: ROUTE ALL TELEPHONE CALLS THROUGH MACTHAI OPERATIONS CENTER TO FACILITATE LOCATING AND NOTIFYING KEY PERSONNEL DURING NON-DUTY HOURS.

7. INFORMATION JUST RECEIVED FROM VIENTIANE VIA TELEPHONE CONVERSATION INDICATES THAT THE REMAINS WILL BE REPEAT WILL BE ARRIVING BANGKOK TODAY DECEMBER 21 ESCORTED BY JCRC REPS WHO ARE ACCOMPANYING CODEL TO HANOI WITH AN ETA AT BANGKOK OF 1400 HOURS LOCAL.
WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

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